

25. Physiographic characterization of natural area:

Climax communities on fluvial bottomland swamp, steep valley slopes and upland divides surrounding Merchants Mill Pond and in Lassiter Swamp, in the Embayed Section of the Coastal Plain Province of the Atlantic Plain.

Geological formation: Shallow surface formation on upland divides probably an estuarine deposit corresponding in age to the Norfolk Formation (early Sangamon?); over unnamed Pleistocene deposit corresponding in age to the Windsor Formation; over unnamed Pleistocene deposit corresponding in age to the "Moorings Unit" of the Bacon's Castle Formation; over unnamed Pleistocene (Pliocene?) deposit corresponding in age to the Sedley Formation, over the Miocene Yorktown Formation.

Geological formation age: Surface formation may correspond to the height of the Sangamon Interglacial, about 80,000 to 90,000 yrs ago. Steep slopes are erosional surfaces active from the late Sangamon (perhaps 60,000 to 80,000 yrs ago) to the present. Islands in the mill pond, and slightly elevated flats around the pond and in Lassiter Swamp may contain deposits corresponding to one of the higher stands of the sea between 40,000 and 60,000 yrs ago described by Oaks and Dubar (1974). The swamp bottom is an alluvial deposit which is presently aggrading.

References cited:

Oaks, R. Q., Jr. and J. R. Dubar. 1974. Post-Miocene stratigraphy: central and southern Atlantic Coastal Plain. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press. 275 p.